

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The benefits of agricultural land include food and fiber production, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, psychological well-being of citizens and enhanced economic and environmental benefits; and,

Whereas, Reported noxious weed-infested acres have decreased by 478,241 acres in the past year, however, 4,482,666 acres of South Dakota's pastures, cropland and wild areas remain infested; and,

Whereas, Every noxious weed-infested acre means lost revenue and additional cost to our already struggling agricultural producers; and,

Whereas, The spread of noxious weeds is among the most serious of threats to bio-diversity, and we are only beginning to address the issue; and,

Whereas, The direct economic impact of this infestation is nearly \$80 million, which does not include lower land values, losses from additional soil erosion, loss of soil nutrients, loss of bio-diversity and loss of recreational opportunities; and,

Whereas, If noxious weeds are not controlled, economic loss would be nearly \$180 million, and South Dakota cannot afford to ignore this growing threat; and,

Whereas, Without the continuing support of South Dakota's citizens, we will lose the use and enjoyment of our state's lands:

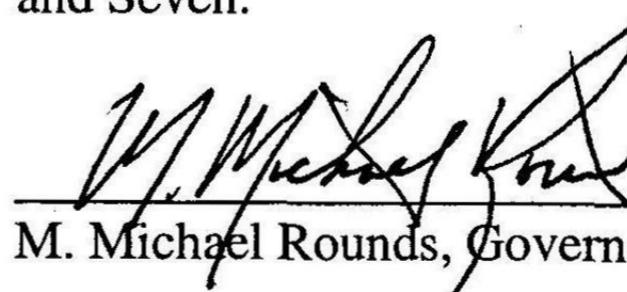
Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2007 as

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.


M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:


Chris Nelson, Secretary of State